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Construction of a bridge near Tirukkoyilur.

* 350 *Q.*—SRI K. PARTHASARATHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to construct a bridge across the river South Pennar near Tirukoilur in the Cuddalore-Chittoor road?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The Government of India have been addressed to treat this as a grant-in-aid work under the scheme for development of inter-State roads, etc., outside the State's current Five-Year Plan."

Starting of Jaggery Co-operative Societies in Chirakkal.

* 351 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state— 11 a.m.

(*a*) how many applications for starting jaggery co-operative societies in Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar, were received from ex-toddy tappers at the office of the Malabar District Prohibition Officer during the last one year; and

(*b*) how many applications were sanctioned; and

(*c*) how many rejected and the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :—" (*a*) During the year 1953, applications were received by the District Prohibition Officer and the Deputy Registrar, Malabar (North) for organizing Jaggery (Production Co-operative) Societies in the following places to Chirakkal taluk :—

1 Azhecode.
2 Payyannoor.
3 Morazha.
4 Pariyaram.
5 Kokkanasseri.
6 Velloor.
7 Karivalloor.
8 Kaviralam.
9 Kandakayi.
10 Cheruthazham.
11 Korom.
12 Paravanthatta.
13 Kunhimangalam.
14. Andur.
15 Madai.

" (*b*) & (*c*) All applications except those from Payyanoor, Morazha, Kunhimangalam and Paravanthatta have been rejected. Jaggery Societies have been started in the former

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three villages. As regards Paravanthatta, the District Prohibition Officer has since recommended the tapping concessions and the Deputy Registrar will take steps to form a jaggery manufacturing society.

The request in respect of the remaining eleven villages was not complied with for all or any of the following reasons :—

(i) The area is noted for illicit tapping or illicit distillation.

(ii) There is misuse of the tapping privilege in the surrounding areas.

(iii) The topography of the area is such that it will be difficult for the enforcement staff to have easy access and exercise effective supervision of sweet juice tapping."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Are the Government aware of the fact that there is so much dissatisfaction among the ex-toddy tappers in Chirakkal taluk because of the indifferent and unsympathetic attitude of the Prohibition department in not allowing them to open jaggery societies, as a result of which hundreds of ex-toddy tappers are forced to starve? "

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :—" Yes, Sir. The District Prohibition Officer's orders were not satisfactory and the Board has asked him to submit his report with concrete reasons as to why some of the representations were refused. The matter is still under consideration and action will be taken without any delay."

SRI S. T. ADITYAN :—" From the point of view of illicit distillation of arrack, is palm jaggery more dangerous than cane jaggery and if so, may I know what was the rationale behind the Government's making a distinction between the two? "

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :—" There is no distinction between the two, Sir."

SRI S. T. ADITYAN :—" From the point of view illicit distillation and from the point of view of enforcing Prohibition, is palm jaggery more dangerous than cane jaggery? If not, what is the rationale behind the distinction made by the Government? The Government now insist that palm jaggery could be made and sold only through licensed co-operatives. Have the Government prescribed any such rule with regard to cane jaggery? If not, what is the reason for making this distinction and for according this step-motherly treatment to palm jaggery? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, sweet toddy can be converted into toddy very easily and it is likely to be misused. Cane juice cannot be converted like that. That is why we have to take precaution against misuse of sweet toddy. However, the hon. Member is free to come to his own conclusion in the matter."

SRI S. T. ADITYAN :—" Experiments have been conducted and it has been conclusively proved that cane juice can as easily

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be converted into arrack as palm juice. I am prepared to challenge the Hon. Minister on this issue to experiment with the two kinds of juices because I know it personally."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am glad the hon. Member has personal experience in the matter which I have not."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Question No. 352."

(Hon. Members Sri T. C. Narayanan Nambiar, Sri K. Aranganathan and Sri C. H. Kanaran were seen rising in their seats to put supplementaries.)

MR. SPEAKER :—" The next Demand is the Harijan Demand. I have to finish all the questions in one hour so that rest of the day may be devoted to the consideration of the Demand. If hon. Members want to put supplementaries on each and every question, I have no other go except to say that the answers to many of the questions that could not be covered within this one hour will be printed in the Proceedings."

SRI C. H. KANARAN :—" The previous question relates to a very important matter."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Can the hon. Member tell me which is unimportant? Everything is important."

SRI C. H. KANARAN :—" Sir, considering the importance of the matter, I have to request that you may be pleased to allow a half-hour debate on the matter."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I shall consider the hon. Member's request."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" In the answer given by the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition, it was stated that certain applications for permission to tap sweet toddy were rejected on the ground that the area concerned was inconvenient and that it will affect the enforcement of Prohibition. My submission is that the answer given by the Hon. Minister based on the facts and figures given to her by the Department concerned is incorrect. May I have a ruling from the Chair when such incorrect answers are supplied to the hon. Members of this hon. House, whether hon. Members have the right and privilege to point out the incorrectness of the information supplied and place the real facts before the House? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" As far as the Chair is concerned, it cannot take up the responsibility regarding the answers given by Hon Ministers. The Chair has nothing to do with the answers given by Hon. Ministers."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" May I know whether hon. Members have the right to draw the attention of the Hon. Speaker as well as Hon. Ministers to the real facts? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member can put it in the form of a question."

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SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" It is for that reason that we wanted to put supplementaries on this question."

MR. SPEAKER :—" But the hon. Member must also bear in mind the time factor. There are a number of questions and we will have to cover them in one hour. Question No. 352."

Reprinting of the Board's Standing Orders.

* 352 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state whether with reference to the answer to question No. 1218 given on 29th July 1953 all the four volumes of the Standing Orders of the Board of Revenue corrected up to date have been re-printed?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The Controller of Stationery and Printing has stated that he is awaiting the last batch of proofs of Volume I of Board's Standing Orders sent to the Board of Revenue for approval and that on its receipt arrangements will be made to print and supply the final copies. The remaining volumes will be taken up successively."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" Sir . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" If the hon. Member wants to put a supplementary on each and every question, I will have to say that the answers to the rest of the questions will be printed in the Official Proceedings. If hon. Members want to hear the answers on the floor of the House, they cannot put supplementaries on every question. I have received answers for a number of questions. It is only for the benefit of hon. Members that I am putting about 30 questions in the Agenda so that they may hear the answers. If they want to put supplementaries on every question, I may have to restrict the number to 20. I wish to make this perfectly clear to the House."

Central Jail, Cuddalore.

* 353 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of prisoners at the Cuddalore Central Jail, South Arcot district at present;

(*b*) the number of officers posted and their establishment charges per year; and

(*c*) the kind of labour extracted from the prisoners and the income derived therefrom for the year 1952?

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" (*a*) Six hundred and eighty-seven on 20th February 1954.

" (*b*) Eighty-four officers during 1952.

" Rs. 68,177 during that year.

" (*c*) Cotton-weaving and vegetable gardening. Income derived from cotton-weaving was Rs. 13,549 in 1952. Rs. 7,419 worth of vegetables were raised."